

Friends

Bulletin

Pacific Yearly Meeting
of Friends

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THE RICH WITH THE POOR?

Can the rich identify with the poor?

This is the question that has haunted me since my study tour to Asia. I had read about poverty, disease, illiteracy, and malnutrition; but you have to see these problems personified to believe them. You have to see the miserable shanties of paper, wood, and tin which represent "home" to over 700,000 refugees in Hong Kong. Or you have to step over the bodies of sleeping refugees on the platform of Sealdah station in Calcutta. Or see a man, as I did, haul his wife to the clinic in a heavy bullock cart because he had no draft animal. This is poverty.

This summer my wife and I lived in the villages of Orissa in India where the average per capita income is \$39 a year! Because life cannot be long sustained on this level, the average life expectancy is 31 years. One of four babies die at birth. Half the people are malnourished. Most suffer from malaria, intestinal diseases, tuberculosis, or leprosy. Only 15% are literate.

Now the people of Asia—and this is true also for Africa and Latin America—are no longer satisfied with their condition. They are rising in a revolution, demanding that their 16th century economy be transformed into a 20th century economy which will at least meet basic needs. Some like China are trying to reach these goals through communism. Others, like India, are trying the way of parliamentary democracy plus economic planning. Still others, like Pakistan, Laos, and Thailand, have already overthrown democratic institutions in favor of the totalitarian approach.

In one Indian village a woman asked me, "Why are we so poor?" Another, "When will we have enough to eat?" Contrast these questions with those we are asking ourselves here in the United States, and you will begin to sense the great gulf between America and Asia. And that gulf is growing. We are the rich. Our economy with its average \$2,000 a year per capita yearly income is skyrocketing while those of the under-developed nations are struggling to

maintain their present levels, all well under \$100 a year. One Indian questioned my use of the term "under-developed" by suggesting that perhaps the United States was "overdeveloped."

I am convinced that unless we can find ways of bridging the gulf, or identifying ourselves with the poor, social and political unrest will continue and quite possibly result in war. For the world cannot continue to exist with one-tenth of the people stuffed and the rest half-starved.

What then is our response as Christians and Americans?

1. Look at these other children of God through the eyes of the compassionate Christ.

2. Accept the principle that the rich have a duty to the poor.

3. Realize that relief measures of surplus food and cast-off clothing cannot do the job without pauperizing both giver and receiver.

4. Demonstrate our Christian concern by missions of Christian service. Two needs are apparent: sacrificial giving and trained, dedicated persons. Christian missionaries have made important contributions in such areas as literacy, agriculture, medical and social work. But more work needs to be undertaken in rural development, for 85% of the people live in villages and work on the land. Non-governmental, religiously motivated missions can be far more flexible than government and they can reflect the concern of people for people. They can demonstrate our faith in the sacredness of each person, in the equality of all men, and in a God of love.

I had the opportunity to study Barpali Village Service, a rural development project of the American Friends Service Committee. Here Indians and Americans form a technical team of doctors, nurses, agriculturalists, engineers and teachers. They work through multi-purpose Indian village workers and women health workers who help villagers raise their standards, understand the meaning of cooperation, and forget caste. I have seen what a small group can achieve in 44 villages with a population of 54,000,

and I am thrilled. An Indian government official told me that if there were such a Service in each of the 1,000 National Development Blocks, India would be well on her way to solve her problems.

5. Increase our non-military foreign aid to 5 billion a year. The task is too great for non-governmental groups alone. We need to encourage our government to really help the people of Asia, Africa, and Latin America raise their standards of living through self-help development programs. The United States is currently spending 1.4 billion on all non-military foreign aid and technical assistance.

6. May each of us daily remember the poor, the sick, the hungry, those in prison . . . for, in the words of our Master, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

—Robert S. Vogel

Orange Grove Meeting

NORTHWEST HALF-YEARLY MEETING

The Half-Yearly Meeting, minus its former Oregon constituents, and shortened as to agenda by unfavorable ferry schedules, gathered nevertheless for a very happy fellowship and considerable progress toward mutual goals. The place of this spring's meeting was Victoria; the days, April 18 and 19.

A highlight of the program was the talk on Saturday evening by Professor Burchill of the British Columbia Institute of Arts and Crafts on the subject, "The Plight of the Indian in British Columbia." Also well received were two reports by young Friends. Sharon McKay told of her contest-winning visit under Odd-Fellow sponsorship to the Canadian Parliament and to the United Nations. Patricia Clark spoke on the Conference on Peace through Non-Violence sponsored by the Union of Dukhobors, the F.O.R., and the Friends.

Members from Meetings in British Columbia and Washington, and the visitors from Oregon enjoyed the beautiful Victoria weather and the warm hospitality of the host Meeting.

—Elsie Bergman

University Meeting

OREGON QUARTERLY MEETING

On May 9 and 10, Multnomah Meeting was host to Oregon Quarterly Meeting in Portland. More than twenty Young Friends from Northwest Half-Yearly Meeting and from Oregon also met for a varied program and to plan their summer camp.

Concerns which appeared during the sessions were for participation of all members of the Meetings in religious education activities, increased cooperation with the American Friends Service Committee, especially in its peace program and its summer projects, planning low-cost funerals, and continuing concern for the situation on the Klamath Indian Reservation. The evening session was a lively discussion

period on "Religion and Mental Health" led by Dr. Richard Steiner of the Portland Unitarian Church and Purchase N.J., Friends Meeting.

The Young Friends carried out a full program, including a visit to the control tower of the new Airport, talks with Albert Bigelow of the crew of the **Golden Rule**, and discussions of non-violent direct action for peace, and a survey of the new Science Museum in Portland. Their camp will be June 13 to 20 at the Scout Camp in Santiam Pass, with Robert and Roberta Martin, Alura Dodd and Howard Richards as counselors. For further information write to Jean Prideaux, Rt. 1, Box 68, Stayton, Oregon.

—Esther Richards

Multnomah Meeting

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Again this summer Pacific Oaks Friends School and Occidental College will offer a varied program in elementary and early childhood education, including guided observation and participation in nursery school and kindergarten. Registration begins on June 22, and a full prospectus may be obtained from the Director, Teacher Education, Pacific Oaks Friends School, 714 West California Ave., Pasadena, Calif.

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The Friends Secondary School to be held this summer at the ranch of Lee and Teresa Sannella, near Petaluma, Calif., is still "under the care of" College Park Quarterly Meeting, although it has been incorporated under the impressive name of College Park Friends Educational Association. The theme this year will be Creative Communication. Ken Stevens will be the director, and any request for information should be addressed to him, Rt. 8, Box 820, Modesto, Calif.

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The Friends Retirement Association of Pasadena has raised over \$9,000 of the \$20,000 needed to start the home for elderly Friends. For particulars, write to Rega Engelsberg, 964 N. Holliston, Pasadena 6, Calif.

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A seminar and workshop on "The Dimensions of Peace" will be held following Yearly Meeting, at La Honda, Calif., August 25 to 29. Leaders will be A. J. Muste of the F.O.R. and Samuel Levering, Peace Board of the Five Years Meeting. More information will be available in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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A new edition of William Wistar Comfort's book **The Quaker Way of Life**, has just been published by the American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 12th St., Philadelphia 7, Pa. Originally titled, **Just Among Friends**, this is the fourth printing, and brings up to date the description of the work of Quaker organizations. The book includes chapters on Quaker faith, meetings for worship, the peace testimony, education, Quakers in the larger sphere, and the well-known "Some Fruits of Silence." Copies may be ordered from regional offices, the home office in Philadelphia, or Quaker bookstores, 75 cents a copy, three for \$2.00.

Word has come from Phoenix Monthly Meeting of another man who is attempting to obtain money from Friends under false pretenses, claiming to have graduated from a Friends School and to have been a member of an Eastern Meeting. Friends of Pacific Yearly Meeting would do well to consider directing this type of request for money to their Monthly Meetings rather than be approached personally by a "clever operator." For further information, contact the Bulletin or the Phoenix Meeting c/o Charles Gritzner, 135 N. Sirrine St, Mesa, Arizona.

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Born: on April 15, to Kellogg and Betty Jane Peckham of 1110 Armanda Dr., Pacadena, Calif., a daughter named Mary Laurel Peckham.

YEARLY MEETING PLANS

Elizabeth Cunningham (2422 Channing Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.) chairman of the Arrangements Committee, writes that Amelia Swayne of the Education Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, will be with us, and that an active program for children is being planned by a committee headed by Jennivieve Westwick (1745 Lincoln St., Berkeley 3, Calif.). The registrar will be Herb Foster, 118 Miles Ave., Santa Cruz, Calif., and Bulletin readers may expect to receive registration blanks soon. Please fill them in at once and return them to the registrar, along with your check, in order to facilitate the mechanics of registration and assignment to living quarters. The whole family is welcome and there will be a full program for all ages; the swimming pool, improved accomodations, centralized meeting place, and camping facilities should make all comfortable.

Yearly Meeting is at the San Francisco YMCA Camp, Jones Gulch, La Honda, Calif., August 21 to 25.

Tentative Program for Elementary School Children:

Friday, August 21

4-5 Family Meeting

7-8:30 Movies

Saturday

9-9:30 Worship, outdoors

9:40-12 Classes, projects, games

Sunday

9:30-10:30 Meeting for worship

10:30-12 Activity program

Afternoon open (swimming and trips)

Monday

9-9:30 Meeting for worship

9:40-12 Classes, etc.

2-3 One building supervised

3-4:30 Swimming

7-8:30 Movies

Tuesday

9-9:30 Meeting for worship

9:40-12 Final class activities

The program will include study of life in other lands, craft and service projects, games, hikes. We expect to have full-time supervisors for each age group, but need many volunteers who can give one or two sessions of time, to help with special studies of other countries, to run a projector, tell stories, assist with craft work,

lead group singing or a camp fire, or dancing in large or small groups.

Child care for children under 3 will be planned during all regular adult sessions; arrangements are being made by Doreen Barns and Meg Palley. The Young Friends will have their own programs, adult advisors and meeting places. Any suggestions or offers of help may be made to Jennivieve Westwick, or to the general chairman, Elizabeth Cunningham.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have just returned from Pacific Northwest Half-Yearly Meeting in Victoria, a happy meeting of delightful people in idyllic surroundings. If we can judge by what was shared verbally there are no deep concerns in the member Meetings at the present time. Is it possible that we in the Northwest are permitting ourselves to share the regrettable world-wide contemporary habit of coasting down easy conventional pathways in avoid having to think about uncomfortable facts?

During the six months since our last meeting it has become very clear that no matter how scientists differ about the effect of testing nuclear weapons, all agree that nuclear war means the end of the human race. A highly respected U.S. army general has pointed out that talk of defense spending is a euphuism; there is no such thing as defense against nuclear I.B.M., what we are preparing for is retaliation after attack, i.e., nuclear war. At the present moment a famous Canadian magazine editor has just finished stumping the country speaking about his concern that the present moment is ideal for Canada to retire from the arms race altogether and concentrate all her resources on leading a race to assist depressed countries. In a different but pertinent field more of us are becoming aware of the impact of Erich Fromm, and his demonstration that even through non-religious channels one is forced to the conclusion that it is only through learning to love in an outgoing and unselfish fashion that man can find peace and his fulfilment.

If Friends have the religious convictions which I believe they have, should not concerns such as these come to the surface during a two-day meeting?

—Hugh Campbell-Brown
Vancouver Meeting

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On our vacation trip this spring, Margarete and I drove nearly 5,000 miles in three Western states, calling on many Friends, staying overnight with a number of families and attending meeting for worship in several places. All to whom we showed the photo scrap-book of our Meeting members were interested and several read it with care.

It has occurred to us that a card file of members of our Yearly Meeting accessible to any one during Yearly Meeting sessions and available to the Nominating Committee and other officers at other times, might be a valuable aid in expediting Yearly Meeting business and to help cement friendships between the members.

Items of information shown on these cards

THE FRIENDS BULLETIN

Bulletin Committee: Madge Seaver, chairman; Esther C. Richards, editor; Margarete Coe, Grace Lawrence, Margaret Lorenz, Edward Thatcher, Stephanie Ullman, Philip Wells.

All contributions and correspondence should be addressed to the Friends Bulletin, 2814 N. E. 27th Ave., Portland 12, Oregon.

PACIFIC YEARLY MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

CLERK: Catherine Bruner, 1603 Woodland Dr., Stockton 4, Calif.; ALTERNATE CLERK: Harold Carson, Box 349, Houghton, Washington; RECORDING CLERK: Edwin Morgenroth, 2721 Fifth Ave., Corona del Mar, Calif.; READING CLERK: James Riddles, 6375 Wunderlin Ave., San Diego 14, Calif.; STATISTICAL SECRETARY: Mildred Burck, Rt. 1, Box 167, Monmouth, Oregon; ACTING TREASURER: Robert Young, 2304 Huntington Dr., San Marino, Calif.

should be tabulated by Yearly Meeting Officers, as they would know what details might be most valuable. Certain vital statistics would, of course, be fundamental: names and ages of children, vocational ambitions, hobbies, special Quaker concerns—to name a few. Those anxious to welcome visitors could be recorded. (Some Friends, perhaps elderly and birthright members of Eastern Meetings, might be particularly glad to be remembered.) Older Friends willing to play host to a young Friend away from home at school or work might be worth knowing about.

I have had several years business experience in gathering data of this kind, and Margarete is a former business office manager. We would enjoy making this contribution of time and effort, but feel we should have some formal recognition or minute from the Yearly Meeting to give us status.

—Charles D. Coe
University Meeting

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Three years have already gone by since the Pacific Yearly Meeting was held at the San Francisco YMCA Camp at Jones Gulch, La Honda, Calif., and it has been 3 years crammed with great events. We have witnessed the Suez invasion, and the great upheavals in the Middle

East. The new state of Ghana has been born. A wave of nationalism combined with an intense desire for freedom is sweeping through all of Africa and parts of Asia. Cuba has just experienced a violent revolution. While this is being written the foreign ministers are meeting in Geneva, and a summit meeting is in prospect.

In 1956 it was the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Pacific Coast Association, the forerunner of our Pacific Yearly Meeting. The birthplace of the association was the home of Howard and Anne Cox Brinton on the Mills College Campus in Oakland, Calif. It is very fitting that Howard Brinton will attend this year's Meeting and survey for himself the growth of the movement which had its birth in his home in April, 1931.

This year, more than any other time, I hope the main emphasis will be placed on our peace testimony. The time is short. The subject is urgent. We may now have to use unconventional methods to make the unthinking and the indifferent come to a realization of the deadly serious times in which we live, for "evil triumphs when good men do nothing." This year we literally meet under a cloud of atomic dust. Do we desire a warless world, or no world at all?

This will be an eventful summer, internationally speaking. If the summit meeting is to be held in San Francisco, some of us may be called to bear witness to our peace testimony in a public manner at the same time.

There is such a thing as "spiritual indigestion" among ourselves, and I for one am not in favor of holding our Yearly Meetings in secluded areas away from the main stream of American life and combining it with "a good time" swimming, sports, fun, etc. For times have become very serious, Friends, and we need a re-awakening to realize our true mission and our responsibilities in this floundering world of ours.

Maybe the eyes of the world soon will be centered on San Francisco. Let us not hide our lights under a bushel close by, just enjoying ourselves. Let our lights so shine that those who are bent on evil shall tremble, and let our message "shake the world for miles around."

—Peter Guldbrandsen
Berkeley Meeting

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